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PH (707) 463-5770
FAX (707) 463-5773
235 4TH STREET, SUITE C
EUREKA, CA 95501
PH (707) 445-7014
FAX (707) 445-6607

Assembly California Legislature



PATTY BERG
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
AGING & LONG-TERM CARE, CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH
WATER, PARKS & WILDLIFE
JOINT COMMITTEE:
FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, CHAIR
SELECT COMMITTEES:
SUSTAINABILITY, CHAIR
WINE

August 25, 2006

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
Attn: Michael Bowen
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Support for Yonkers Creek Migration Barrier Removal Project

Dear Chairman Bosco: *Doug*

I am pleased to offer this letter in support of the request from the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program to fund partial implementation of the Yonkers Creek Migration Barrier Removal Project.

The Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program selected this project as a priority because it will remove the most severe barrier to salmonid migration on Yonkers Creek, a major tributary to the Lake Earl lagoon system. This project, combined with access improvements currently being implemented on private crossings located downstream, will significantly improve access for salmonids throughout the entire watershed, leading to the recovery of a viable population of coho salmon and steelhead trout.

I urge your favorable consideration of the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program's request to fund the Yonkers Creek Migration Barrier Removal Project. If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my Eureka District Office at (707) 445-7014.

Respectfully,

PATTY BERG
Assemblymember, 1st District

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AUG 30 2006

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

STANDING COMMITTEES:
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW,
CHAIR
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HEALTH
HUMAN SERVICES
VETERANS AFFAIRS

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 5035
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
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California State Senate

SENATOR
WESLEY CHESBRO
SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT



JOINT COMMITTEES:
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY SERVICES &
HOMELAND SECURITY
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET, CHAIR
SELECT COMMITTEES:
CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY,
CHAIR
COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY
ADMISSIONS & OUTREACH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
& MENTAL HEALTH, CHAIR
METHAMPHETAMINE ABUSE
MOBILE & MANUFACTURED
HOMES
SUB COMMITTEE NO. 3
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
LABOR & VETERAN AFFAIRS

September 14, 2006

Doug Bosco, Chair
Attn: Michael Bowen
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Support for Salmon Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in strong support of the Salmon Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Project sponsored by the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program. The Salmon Creek Estuary is a critical habitat for salmon located in the Salmon Creek Unit of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, approximately 10 miles south of Eureka, CA.

As you may be aware, the existing tidegates at the mouth of the Salmon Creek Estuary partially block fish access, cause poor tidal circulation and water quality conditions, and have lead to sedimentation of the estuarine habitat. This project consists of the replacement of two existing sets of tidegates within the estuary, the installation of an additional tidegate where one had previously existed, and the retrofit of an existing gate. The new structures are designed to provide unimpeded access for migrating fish at all ebbing tides, using a newly proven design of vertical hinged gates.

I believe that the project will significantly improve the access and quality of spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook, Coho, steelhead and Coastal cutthroat trout and urge your support of this effort.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to endorse this Project and urge the Coastal Conservancy to provide funding to enable its completion. Please contact my Eureka District Office (707) 445-6508 if my office can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


WESLEY CHESBRO
State Senator, Second District

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SEP 18 2006

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



August 28, 2006

Doug Bosco, Chair
Attn: Michael Bowen
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Support for Salmon Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

California Trout (CalTrout) strongly supports the request by the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program to the Coastal Conservancy to fund implementation of the Salmon Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Project.

The innovative state of the art project is long overdue and is a priority action item for the Salmon Creek Unit of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, the Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon and the Humboldt Bay Watershed Advisory Committee. Through a variety of treatments, including tidegate replacement and channel modification, both the access to and quality of approximately 20 stream miles of spawning and rearing habitat will also be improved for Chinook, Coho, steelhead and Coastal cutthroat trout.

The existing tidegates on Salmon Creek have been identified as partial barriers to migrating adult and juvenile salmonids, only allowing passage for short periods during slack tide. Replacing the existing tidegates on Salmon Creek with modern structures designed for allowing fish passage, a muted tide cycle circulation, and an increased outflow capacity will provide significant improvement to several limiting factors affecting salmon populations.

Recent research has increasingly demonstrated the importance of tidal estuaries and low gradient freshwater wetlands in the life history of anadromous salmonids. Additionally, fish passage studies have revealed that even relatively short duration velocity barriers to migrating adult salmon can greatly reduce access to suitable upstream habitat. This project is designed to address both of these habitat limitations in Salmon Creek.

CalTrout urges the Coastal Conservancy to support the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program's request for implementation of the Salmon Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Thomas J. Weseloh".

Thomas J. Weseloh, Northcoast Manager

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AUG 31 2006
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Smith River Advisory Council

Jim Waldvogel, Chair
586 G Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

September 6, 2006

Doug Bosco, Chair
Attn: Michael Bowen
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Support for Yonkers Creek Migration Barrier Removal Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Smith River Advisory Council strongly supports the request from the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program to the Coastal Conservancy to fund partial implementation of the Yonkers Creek Migration Barrier Removal Project.

The project is located on Wonderstump Road in Crescent City, California. During the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program's migration barrier inventory from 1998 to 2000, this site was evaluated to be a complete barrier to adult coastal cutthroat trout and all juvenile salmonids due to the excessive velocities through the culvert. The outlet pool and banks immediately below the culvert have been continuously eroding due to the high flows, exacerbating the barrier condition with an excessive outlet jump. Replacing the existing six-foot diameter culvert with an open bottom arch structure will restore access to approximately 1.7 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat for coho, steelhead and Coastal cutthroat trout.

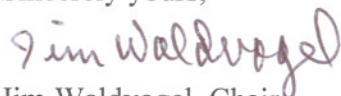
Yonkers Creek is a small coastal stream that flows into Lake Earl, just north of Crescent City. It historically sustained populations of coho salmon and steelhead trout. Over the past one-hundred years, fish populations have declined within the watershed, primarily due the degradation of the downstream estuary and loss of in-channel spawning and rearing habitat. The principal limiting factor for salmonid production in the Yonkers Creek watershed is limited access to spawning and rearing habitat. This project will greatly improve access to good quality upstream spawning and rearing habitat by eliminating the migration barrier that lies immediately downstream of some of the best habitat within the entire watershed. The upstream habitat is characterized by deep pools, second growth redwood community, undercut banks and cool-water temperatures during the summer; making Yonkers Creek an important spawning tributary to Lake Earl.

This culvert is one of the second highest priority migration barriers remaining in Del Norte County that was identified during the barrier inventory. The high velocities within the culvert and turbulent flow at the outlet during the winter months create a complete barrier to adult coastal cutthroat trout and all juvenile salmonids. The culvert also lacks adequate water depth at the lower range of migration flows. The new stream crossing structure will mimic the natural channel using a "stream simulation" design approach, providing unimpeded fish passage to 1.7 miles.

The Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program selected this project as a priority since it will remove the most severe barrier to salmonid migration on Yonkers Creek, a major tributary to the Lake Earl lagoon system. This project, combined with access improvements currently being implemented on private crossings located downstream, will significantly improve access for salmonids throughout the entire watershed, leading to the recovery of a viable population of coho salmon and steelhead trout.

The Smith River Advisory Council urges the Coastal Conservancy to support the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program's request to fund partial implementation of the Yonkers Creek Migration Barrier Removal Project.

Sincerely yours,



Jim Waldvogel, Chair
Smith River Advisory Council
Univ. of Calif. Sea Grant Advisor

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.